

Cleanup Safety Checklist

- Designate a <u>safety officer</u> whose only responsibility is safety and troubleshooting. This person should have a first aid kit, a cell phone, and a list of emergency phone numbers. Review this safety checklist with volunteers before they get to work.
- Ask volunteers to sign the liability release/sign-in sheet this is probably the best way to direct their attention to the need to follow safety rules.
- DRESS properly; wear heavy shoes and long pants; gloves use sunscreen and insect repellent when appropriate.
- DRINK plenty of fluids, avoid over-exertion, get help with large objects. Use proper lifting and bending techniques.
- Do not overstuff bags or pickup anything that could be hazardous to your health.
- NEEDLES, sharp or unusual objects. <u>If found needles should be placed into a hard plastic pop bottle with cap using the litter grabber provided</u>.
 Only then may bottles (with needles) be placed in the trash bag. TEAM Leader should have at least one bottle for their group with their supplies. Also whenever found please report the location to someone in authority for follow up.
- When near a road, wear bright colors, work in groups, <u>and always</u> face on-coming traffic. IMPORTANT--Wear your SAFETY VEST!
- INSECTS -Check each other for ticks. If you are stung by a bee/wasp and fear a life threatening allergic reaction, call 911.
- POISON-Be aware of poison ivy or other poisonous or sharp plant materials. Protect with long sleeve shirts and pants.
- ANIMALS- when cleaning up in neighborhoods you may encounter unfriendly dogs. If approached by a growling or angry animal stand still, do not run or make direct eye contact. Move slowly away from the animal when appropriate. See dog bite prevention tips (next page)
- Snakes usually "non-poisonous" reside in wooded and wet areas, abandoned tires; be cautious at all times.



Dog Bite Prevention

Don't Invite a Bite!

Dogs may bite for a variety of reasons...fear of a strange person, territorial aggression, protecting a litter of puppies, etc. Dogs who are injured or not properly socialized with people are also more prone to biting out of fear.

To avoid becoming the victim of a bite, follow these tips:

- Never approach a dog you do not know.
- Assume any dog you don't know, may bite.
- Avoid direct eye contact with aggressive dogs.
- Never disturb a dog who is sleeping, eating or protecting puppies.

If a strange dog approaches you:

- Remain calm ~ do not scream or yell.
- Freeze and remain still. Avoid sudden movements. Above all, do not run, as this invites a chase.
- Turn your head away slightly, avoid direct eye contact.
- Be patient. Wait until the dog loses interest and back away slowly.

If you are attacked by a dog:

- Seek cover and try to use any object you have to place between you and the dog
 ~ a coat, book bag, etc.
- Try to stay on your feet.
- If knocked down, curl into a ball on your knees and use your arms to protect your face and neck.

Report dog bites to:

- In the city of Columbus & Worthington, call the Columbus Health Department at 645-6134.
- Any other location in Franklin County, call the Franklin County Public Health at 525-3160.